

USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC-626)

DEPENDABLE DELIVERY

Count on Us!

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From the CO

DEPENDABLE Friends & Family,

As I write this, we're currently pier side in Key West, it's in the mid-80's, and the word "winter" does not readily come to mind. Suffice it to say we'll have some adjusting to do on our way back to Cape May!

It's been yet another incredibly busy span of time since our last newsletter was released in early October. November witnessed a pretty significant and unexpected change in our schedule, as we found ourselves scrambling to button up the ship, get underway on just one engine (the other engine being torn down for a major overhaul), and travel approximately 100 miles up the Delaware River to avoid Hurricane Sandy. For many of our families, a similarly hasty evacuation was necessary as well. Not surprisingly, the DEPENDABLE crew rose to the occasion, getting us safely to and back from Philadelphia, completing their remaining patrol preparations, and readying the cutter to sail on time for our next patrol, which brings me to our current location here in Key West.

As you'll see in this edition, we've been extremely active and highly productive once again this patrol. From helicopter embarkation work-ups in Mayport, operations off the coast of Nicaragua, boardings near Columbia's north coast, and drug contraband transfers here in Key West, DEPENDABLE has been busy, and has a great deal to be proud of! All sights at this point, however, are on our transit home to friends and family. As always, we want to thank you for your outstanding support to us, our cutter, and the critical missions that we're called upon to execute, especially in light of our absence throughout the recent Holiday season. With that, I wish you a belated Happy New Year that brings you great joy, health, and prosperity in 2013!

Count on us!

Sincerely,

Lee Petty

Commander, USCG

Commanding Officer



Awards

Left: BM3 Joseph Ditullio is applauded by CDR Lee Petty and BMC Nicholas Ingersoll for attaining his qualification as a small boat coxswain.



Right: SK1 Anthony McCabe and FS3 Kyle Velasquez congratulate each other on receipt of their Sea Service Ribbons. The Sea Service Ribbon is awarded to any Coast Guard member who satisfactorily completes one year of sea duty aboard any commissioned Coast Guard cutter.



Advancements



SNBM Nicolas Alger is promoted to the rank of Third Class Petty Officer by BM3 Joseph Ditullio and BM1 Pete Fager. Congratulations BM3!

CDR Lee Petty promotes Seaman Apprentice Matthew Gonzalez to the rank of Seaman. Congratulations SN Gonzalez!



Departing Shipmates



SN Patrick Spencer is presented with his Commandant's Letter of Commendation for his service aboard DEPENDABLE. Congratulations to SN Spencer for being selected for OCS. You will be missed!

EM1 Nicholas Olivarez is recognized by LT Adam Buckley for his outstanding service during his time on DEPENDABLE. The crew of DEPENDABLE wishes EM1 and his family the best at his new billet at Sector Lower Mississippi River in Memphis, TN.



Operations

This deployment DEPENDABLE patrolled the Caribbean seas that were once infamous for piracy and unknown dangers, now home to notorious drug routes. DEPENDABLE's holiday season was spent underway hunting for a different kind of mistletoe and snow. Although no illicit drugs were directly interdicted during the patrol, DEPENDABLE's presence was a major deterrence to narcotic trafficking. DEPENDABLE was an integral part in a major case involving seven detainees and over 650 kilograms of contraband. DEPENDABLE also conducted two live fire gunnery exercises helping to qualify new gun crews. All in all this has been a very productive and effective patrol.

"No Changes to Objective or Mission." OS1 Williams Hess, OS2 Ian Anderson, OS3 Kevin McLean, and OS3 Terrence Young have uttered this phrase every evening underway during daily mission planning briefs. Though the mission remained the same, DEPENDABLE was never without "Hot Intel." Hot being used, not to describe the accuracy or the reliability of the information, but to describe the temperature at which the information was compiled in. On a patrol where the outside air temperature was consistently 80 degrees or higher, the inside temperature of CIC consistently matched or exceeded it. In the early morning hours when most on board are still a sleep, CIC is manned by a Monster-fueled watch stander who is waiting for a call about new Intel. To the men who never see the sun, you performed a wonderful job under the circumstances and helped DEPENDABLE to be informed and alert. But still "No Changes to Objective or Mission"

It was business as usual for Deck department, further cementing themselves as the catalyst for smooth sailing, nautical know-how, and most importantly: Crew morale. This was most evident on December 17th, 2012, when Deck department held their morale night dinner for the crew where the wily sailors of Deck department served a plethora of hot dogs. With Christmas just a few days away, the entire mess deck was rigged with Christmas lights and decorations as well as SN James Bialk, whom everyone in the crew got a picture with as "Jimmy Clause". The hot dog idea was the brain child of our fearless leader: BMC Nicholas Ingersoll, who ironically had a real child of his own, so we congratulated him as he departed from the patrol in Bocas del Toro, Panama. Bocas del Toro was just one of the places we stopped during our voyage, a voyage that included Mayport and Key West, Florida while we were heading south, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (once again), the aforementioned Bocas del Toro at anchor, a couple quick pit stops in Chiriqui Grande and Colon, Panama for some replenishment, and one last stop in Key West on our way back up north.

During all of these transits, we had the aircrew of CG6512, a dolphin helicopter on board, which deck force welcomed and used to add to their ever-growing resume. BM3 Joseph Dittullio, SN Robert Brehm, and SN Kenneth Thompson all got qualified as Helo Tie-down Members, and quickly assisted BM3 Benjamin Levy and SN Nicholas Hogan as deckies in countless, daily flight operations. All of these flight operations were supervised on the flight deck by Landing Signal Officers BM1 Peter Fager and LTJG Anthony Foss. Speaking of LTJG Foss, he had a busy, resume-building, and tiring patrol, pulling double duty as First Lieutenant and now the acting Operations officer with LT Kathryn Cyr sidelined for the patrol due to an injury. This hard work and dedication landed him the Southern New Jersey Junior Officer of the Year award. Early on in the patrol, Deck department helped out with the Law Enforcement aspect of the mission, getting pulled in and out of watch rotations to monitor and stand security watch for detainees that were transferred from the CGC Confidence. BM3 Levy, BM3 Dittullio, SN Hogan, and SN Timothy Streyle represented Deck force and their respective versatility.

Thanks to the training of the First classes, especially our own BM1 Fager, all of the deckies have completed their enlisted Professional Military Education Sign-offs to help move along their respective career advancements. The Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council is now well represented by Deck Force, with BM3 Dittullio as the chaplain and BM3 Levy as the new Vice Chairman.

Toward the end of the patrol, BM2 Holmes and BM3 Dittullio organized the most epic Deck morale event ever: Deck Olympics. The deckies were divided into four teams of three, competing in six different events, ranging from the "Heaving Line Toss" for accuracy to the "Tie a Bowline around yourself" event for time, to the "Simon Says Rudder Amidships" event. It boosted morale from within, which has a trickle-down effect on the rest of the boat.

There was much more to emphasize from the Operations Department during DEPENDABLE's Holiday patrol, but those are...a couple of the highlights. Bravo Zulu and Happy Holidays!

Engineering

DEPENDABLE's engineers exhibited exceptional performance throughout this long, holiday patrol. In addition to playing a major role in all aspects of the ship's operations, our engineers spent countless hours maintaining a wide range of machinery, solving complex shipboard issues, and ensuring DEPENDABLE is always fully mission capable and ready to respond. As we welcomed several new shipmates during our last in-port period the continual process of training, mentoring, and qualifying new engineers was also a big part of this patrol.

The Auxiliary Division, or 'A-Gang' as we typically call them, showed outstanding flexibility amidst continual helicopter operations throughout the patrol. A-gang is responsible for managing all helicopter fueling operations, which includes the storage, purification and testing of DEPENDABLE's JP-5 jet fuel, including the on load of nearly 60,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 4,000 gallons of JP-5. Their scope of responsibility extends to maintenance, repair and operation of the cutter's air conditioning, refrigeration, small boats, and fueling systems. These systems have been put to the test down in the hot and humid Caribbean climate.

After working diligently all last in-port conducting a complete overhaul of DEPENDABLE's #1 main diesel engine, the Main Propulsion Division's hard work paid off. The ship's two 2,550 horsepower engines carried DEPENDABLE from New Jersey to the deep Caribbean and back without issue. The #2 main diesel engine has over 31,000 hours of operation without having been overhauled and it still continues to perform like the day it was installed. Main Props also maintains a variety of other major pieces of machinery, including DEPENDABLE's reverse osmosis water maker, which produced approximately 100,000 gallons of fresh water during this patrol alone!

The Damage Control (DC) Division specializes in carpentry, welding, fabrication, fire safety, plumbing, flooring and all-around ship repair. Our Damage Controlmen outfitted hundreds of items in our repair lockers, which house equipment used to combat damage, including fire hoses, wooden plugs and various patches in the event of fire, flooding or hull damage. The DC Division also was instrumental in the qualification of 15 newly reported crewmembers in the fundamentals of shipboard fire fighting, safety and damage control

The Electrical Division worked hard this patrol ensuring DEPENDABLE always had reliable power and lighting. After noticing an issue on both of the ship's generators that resulted in potential power outages, the Electricians Mates spent over 25 man hours conducting tests and troubleshooting until the problem was resolved. They also ensured the specialty helicopter landing lights and visual aids were operating properly throughout the patrol so that DEPENDABLE could conduct dozens of flight operations safely and reliably.

Support

This Patrol has been a busy one for support department but, as they say, “no rest for the wicked” and that’s definitely how we roll! Support Department has been up to a multitude of tasks to support daily operations and habitability. Here are a few patrol highlights from each shop below.

Southern patrols are always filled with new challenges and getting parts to GTMO is harder than ever but, in the end, those SKs pulled it off. Thanks to SK3 Daniel Kobs and SK1 Anthony McCabe, over 100 chem lights were ordered, delivered and put to use during the seemingly endless flight ops. Logistics weren’t the only buzz for the SKs this patrol; they also flexed their morale muscles and decorated their workspace. If you missed the SK’s office this patrol, then you definitely missed out! With a Charlie Brown tree and lights for all to see, Kobs felt his office was best it could be! SK3 was even heard stating “the EM’s were actually inspired by us” when he found out the EM’s outdid him and SK1 in the festivity competition.

In addition to the holiday festivities, this patrol was also filled with ups and downs from helicopter “touch and go’s” to breakfast eggs on the griddle. First, there was the “vampire time shift”, which shifted the workday ahead 4 hours. The galley staff quickly adapted to this change, making sure the crew was adequately fed with delicious and nutritious meals. Secondly, with multiple flight sorties, the FS staff had to adjust serving times and, just like Wendy’s, stayed open late. During the 60+ day patrol the galley served over 240 tasty and nutritious meals to the crew of CGC DEPENDABLE; from all the crew, to the chiefs and up to the CO, all personnel had their fill. Shout out to FS3 Zander Donnell for making delicious stuffed French toast and exquisite foccacia bread from scratch. And finally, Bravo Zulu to FS1 Jacob Grim who stood over 40 hours of detainee watch and still remained productive in his duty as galley supervisor.

HS1 Rorai Greenan, a.k.a. Doc, worked diligently to ensure we sustained our well-being this patrol. From November to January, Doc treated 50 personnel for a wide range of illnesses. He also treated 01 crew member that had to seek further attention, resulting in a MEDEVAC. Said patient was grateful for Doc’s dedication to healthcare. Additionally, HS1 provided FS3 Donnell with about 50 band aids...just kidding it was only 1!

As usual IT1 Joshua Craig did an outstanding job maintaining the cutter’s computers, telephone and VOIP lines, along with internet connectivity throughout the patrol. The crew of DEPENDABLE relies heavily on IT1 to stay in touch with folks on the beach. We have no clue how you do it, but you do it superbly, IT1!

Our ET shop worked countless hours for 5 consecutive days to get our DIRECTV system up and running; we definitely can’t have the crew miss those playoff NFL games! In addition to habitability electronics maintenance, the ETs worked diligently on the operational electronics. From fixing small boat Automated Identification Systems to surface radars with bad circuit boards, ET1 Shawn Russell, ET2 Mike Scott and ET3 Matt Revell had some long days but they kept moving forward with positive attitudes.

Last but not least, our one and only YN1 Roy Toomer was doing the backstroke while swimming in his administrative paper work. He managed to arrange for 3 personnel to return home from foreign ports for various reasons and 1 member to return to DEPENDABLE in GTMO. Meanwhile, he contributed to the operational workload by manning both the small boat davit and manning up with the Battle Dress Station team...it was like he had an “S” on his chest! Throughout this patrol, he contributed by managing the overall upkeep of all administrative operations for CGC DEPENDABLE.

As stated before, the Support Department was busy supporting both the crew and the operational mission this patrol. They endured long days without sacrificing workmanship quality. The members of Support Department thank you for reading our section and look forward to the next patrol!

Morale Nights!



Morale Moustaches!



Left to Right: LT Michael Vickers; SK1 Anthony McCabe; BMC Nicholas Ingersoll; BM2 Christopher Holmes; ME3 Robert Pagano; BM3 Joseph Ditullio; SN Timothy Streyle; SN Nicholas Hogan; BM3 Benjamin Levy; SN Aaron Lenk



Left: BMC Nicholas Ingersoll
and BM2 Christopher Holmes



Right: SN Timothy Streyle



Morale Moustaches! (Cont'd)

**Right: SN Aaron Lenk and
BM3 Nicolas Alger**



Left: SN Nicholas Hogan



**Right: BMC Nicholas Ingersoll,
BM2 Christopher Holmes and
BM3 Benjamin Levy**



Christmas Underway



For DEPENDABLE's Christmas celebration, the Officers and Chiefs served the crew a delicious ham dinner in the dining area of their choosing: the Messdeck, the Chief's Mess, or the Wardroom.

Left (on the Messdeck): SN Aaron Lenk, SA Stanley Adamson and SN Kenneth Thompson

Below (in the Chief's Mess): ME3 Robert Pagano, SN Matthew Gonzalez and SA Adam Arnett



Above (in the Wardroom): MK2 Cedestinson Ductan, SN Stetson Word, FS3 Alexander Donnell, FN Brett Davies, DC2 Andrew Dean and FN Kyle Duffy

Right (in the Wardroom): MK3 Eric Kasheta, SN



New Year's Log Entry

Writing a log entry onboard a CG cutter is a routine matter in which material condition, watchstanders and the ship's status is recorded. But, in seafaring tradition, watchstanders sweat over military jargon and nautical terms each mid-watch on New Year's Eve to pen lyrical masterpieces.

DEPENDABLE Log Entry from the first watch of 2013

AS DEPENDABLE SAILS ON THE WARRIOR TRACKLINE
A DILIGENT WATCH IS STOOD AS WE OBSERVE FATHER TIME
WE SAIL IN POSITION XX:XX.X NORTH XXX:XX.X WEST
WITH OUR LOOKOUT FOR GO FASTS BEING PUT TO THE TEST
WHILE LANTAREA HOLDS OUR OPCON AND ADCON TIGHT
JIATF SOUTH MOVES ON WITH OUR TACON TONIGHT
FROSTY¹² IS ON DECK AND READY IF CALLED
ALL NEED NOT WORRY WITH PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES INSTALLED
AS THE NUMBER TWO MAIN STEAMS US AHEAD
THE NUMBER ONE MAIN LAY DORMANT FOR AN HOUR INSTEAD
ABLE ONE AND ABLE TWO ARE MADE FAST WITH GRIPES
WITH DECK FORCE READY TO LAUNCH, JUST WAITING FOR PIPES
THE SECOND DIESEL GENERATOR HAS DISTINGUISHED THE POWER
THOUGH DEPENDABLE'S LUMINESCENCE IS EXTINGUISHED BY THE HOUR
YOKE IS THE MATERIAL CONDITION SET THROUGHOUT THE DECKS
THE DAMAGE CONTROL CLOSURE LOG IS FREE OF DEFECTS
THE CARIBBEAN SEA OFFERS THE PITCHING AND ROLLING
AS DEPENDABLE ENDURES AND KEEPS ON PATROLLING
BM2 HOLMES IS THE DECK WATCH OFFICER AND OPERATIONALLY PERSISTENT
LTJG FAGAN IS THE CONNING OFFICER AND THE DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT
THIS WATCH WAS STOOD BY THREE BOATSWAIN'S MATES, TWO SEAMAN, AND AN ENGINEER
STRIKING SIXTEEN BELLS AT MIDNIGHT, USHERING IN THE NEW YEAR

Written by the mid-watch: LTJG Cory Fagan, BM2 Christopher Holmes, BM3 Joseph DiTullio, BM3 Benjamin Levy, SN Aaron Lenk, and SN Matthew Gonzalez

USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC-626)

Shout Out To



Our TAD Shipmates!

ENS Patrick Buckley (not pictured) — USCGC Campbell; Portsmouth, NH

FN Kyle Duffy (right) — Training Center Cape May, NJ

SN Kyle Shillingford (left) — Training Center Cape May, NJ

USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC-626)

Shout Out To



The Crew of CG 6512

LT Andrew Nebel

AMT1 Scott Harrington

AMT3 Preston Goulet

LT Michael Vickers

AET2 Steven Leghorn

AMT3 Alex Colebrooke

Thank you for your continued support!



XO's Corner

Greetings families!

Thank you for all of your support while we were away doing all of the exciting events captured in this newsletter. The crew is very proud of their work, but they are often more proud of their families and the support you provide to help them do their work. During the last in port period, everyone did an exceptional job during the Hurricane Sandy evacuation. Although it seemed hectic at times, overall everything was taken care of and the ship and families were evacuated safely to the Philadelphia/Cherry Hill area. We had a few good lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy:

1. Crewmembers and families should make sure they have comprehensive coverage on vehicles and renters insurance.
2. The local airport is a good location to park personal vehicles. DEPENDABLE will work on arranging a shuttle service to get folks to/from airport/base, if there is time before evacuation.
3. We'll plan on tasking a crewmember to attend TRACEN evacuation meetings to help gather/pass information.
4. During our next family night, provide families portable generator 101 training and safety tips.

Special thanks to Lisa Bush for fulfilling the Ombudsman duties recently. She was a big help this patrol. Many of you receive the emails from the Training Center regarding all the MWR and family activities on base – continue to check them out. They have lots of fun things to do ... especially if you are looking for things to do during the off season in Cape May. They usually have activities for all age levels. Fortunately, we will have a large portion of the summer home with families.

Thank you,
LCDR Leshnover



Credits

SN Stanley Adamson
SNBM Nicolas Alger
OS2 Ian Anderson
MK1 Bradley Andreasen
ENS Bryan Andrews
SN Adam Arnett
MKC Michael Bailey
ENG2 James Barker
SN James Bialk
SN Robert Brehm
SN Karl Brobst Jr.
LT Adam Buckley
EMC Wayne Bush
ENS Samantha Coonan
FN Joseph Costick Jr.
IT1 Joshua Craig
FN Brett Davies
DC2 Andrew Dean
BM3 Joseph Ditullio Jr.
FS3 Alexander Donnell
FS2 Jacob Doss
MK2 Cedestinson Ductan
SN Joseph Dunn
LTJG Cory Fagan
BM1 Peter Fager
LTJG Anthony Foss

BM3 Weston Gaines
SN Matthew Gonzalez
FN Gerald Goss
GM1 Jeremy Gray
HS1 Rorai Greenan
FS1 Jacob Grim
MKC Wesley Grogan
MK1 William Hamilton
FN Lucas Heckler
OS1 William Hess
SN Nicholas Hogan
BM2 Christopher Holmes
FN Mitchell Iavarone
BMC Nicholas Ingersoll
MK3 Eric Kasheta
MK1 Stephen Kincade
SK3 Daniel Kobs
FS3 Jeffrey Ladjack
SN Aaron Lenk
LCDR June Leshnover
BM3 Benjamin Levy
SN Daniel Lyda
MK3 Michael Maffioli
SK1 Anthony McCabe
OS3 Kevin McLean
BMC Joseph Megahey

EM3 Tad Murphy
FSC Phillip Ngo
ENS Francisco Nieto Jr.
EM1 Nicolas Olivarez
ME3 Robert Pagano Jr.
ME1 Gregory Petrongolo
CDR Lee Petty
EM3 Alejandro Rendon
ET3 Matthew Revell
ET1 Shawn Russell
MK3 Jesse San Nicolas
ET2 Michael Scott
DC1 Joseph Stevens
SN Patrick Spencer
ENS Kyle Stover
SN Timothy Streyle
FN Isaac Thomas
YN1 Roy Toomer
SN Kenneth Thompson, Jr.
FS3 Kyle Velasquez
ENS Jenilee Williams
SN Stetson Word
OS3 Terrence Young
MK2 Dwayne Zografos

The Most **DEPENDABLE** Crew In the Fleet